

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /017 W
----- 057885

R 150758Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2260
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WA

SUBJ: TRAVEL TO OVAMBOLAND

1. ON JUNE 24 EMBASSY FORMALLY ASKED DFA TO SECURE PERMISSION TO ALLOW EMBOFF AND FRANKLIN WILLIS, L/AF, TO VISIT OVAMBOLAND JULY 7-10. DFA RESPONDED FOLLOWING WEEK THAT "PROPOSED VISIT WILL NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY". NOTE INDICATED THAT DECISION TAKEN BECAUSE OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO FACT THAT SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS EMBOFF HAD STATED HE AND WILLIS WANTED TO MEET WOULD BE ON VACATION.

2. AMBASSADOR RAISED TOPIC DURING JULY 10 MEETING WITH DFA SECRETARY FOURIE. FOURIE WAS UNAWARE OF CASE, STATE THAT SUCH REQUESTS WERE ROUTINELY REFERRED TO OFFICE OF SWA COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (DE WET), AND THAT SCARCE ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE IN OSHAKATI FOR VISITORS OFTEN DECIDING FACTOR. HE ALSO SAID THAT REFUSAL OF PERMIT DOES NOT AFFECT SAG'S STANDING ON PRINCIPLE OF ALLOWING EMBASSY VISITS TO OVAMBOLAND, AND ADDED THAT, IN FUTURE, AMBASSADOR SHOULD CALL SUCH REQUESTS TO HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION.

3. COMMENT: SENSITIVITY ABOUT EMBASSY DEMARCHE ON WOOD CASE AND INDICATIONS OF TENSION IN OVAMBOLAND
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(E.G., REPORTED SHOOTING INCIDENT) MAY HAVE BEEN

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN REJECTION. WHATEVER THE TRUTH
MAY BE, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOVERNMENT UNWILLING TO HAVE
FOREIGN VISITORS IN AREA EXCEPT UNDER OPTIMUM (FOR SAG)
CONDITIONS. THOUGH OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS IN OVAMBOLAND
AVAILABLE (E.G., MISSION STATIONS), SAG OBVIOUSLY
PREFERS TO HAVE VISITORS STAY IN SMALL GOVERNMENT
GUEST HOUSE AND TO BE ESCORTED BY APPROPRIATE SAG OFFICIALS.
BOWDLER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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